

NEWS RELEASE



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American Judicature Society
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Justice Charles K. Wiggins Received AJS Herbert Harley Award

Des Moines, Iowa –Washington State Supreme Court Justice Charles Wiggins was honored with the American Judicature Society (AJS) Herbert Harley Award at yesterday's Fall Judicial Conference in Ocean Shores. The award, named after the founder of AJS, is reserved for individuals whose outstanding efforts and contributions result in substantial, long-term improvements to the justice system at the state level.

Justice Wiggins has dedicated much of his legal career to the improvement of the administration of justice, has advocated for the highest standard of judicial ethics by seeking to reduce the influence of campaign contributions on judicial elections, and has educated fellow lawyers and the public on the law and legal history.

Prior to joining the Washington Supreme Court, Wiggins was instrumental in filing an amicus brief for 27 former state supreme court judges from 19 states in *Caperton v. Massey*, successfully urging the U.S. Supreme Court to find a due process violation where judges fail to recuse themselves despite significant campaign contributions. He served as pro bono counsel for the Washington Legal Foundation, filing a brief and presenting oral arguments on the proposed adoption of the IOLTA program in Washington. As an attorney in private practice, he led efforts to develop a nonpartisan website to provide information to voters in judicial elections and worked with the legislature to extend campaign contribution limits to judicial elections.

Wiggins was elected to the Washington State Supreme Court in 2010, and previously served for a year on the Washington Court of Appeals. He served as President of the AJS Washington State Chapter from 2005-2007, Chair of the Judicial Selection Coalition Committee from 2006-2010, and has been an active member of the Washington State Bar Association in various capacities. Justice Wiggins is also a Retired Captain, U.S. Army Military Intelligence.

Justice Wiggins was recognized with a Professionalism Award from the Young Lawyers Section of the Washington State Bar, Volunteer of the Year from the Legal Clinic of the Union Gospel Mission in Seattle, and the 2010 Humanitarian Award from the Kitsap County Bar Association.

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Founded in 1913, the American Judicature Society is a nonpartisan organization with a national membership of judges, lawyers, and other citizens interested in improving our nation's courts and the administration of justice. The AJS mission is to secure and promote an independent and qualified judiciary and a fair system of justice. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.ajs.org>.